

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the present Amendment.

Original claims 8-14 are canceled.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant hereby elects Species 1, Figs. 1-8, for prosecution on the merits if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Original claims 1 and 6, and new claims 15-17 are generic.

Original claims 1-6, new claims 15-19, and new claims 22-25 read on Species 1.

Original claims 1, 6 and 7, new claims 15-17, and new claims 20-21 read on Species 2.

Claim 1 is amended to distinguish the invention from the prior art under 35 USC 102 and 103; including prior art UK Patent Application GB 2 094 668 A, which was cited in the corresponding PCT application.

New claims 15-25 are submitted to distinguish the invention further from the prior art under 35 USC 102 and 103.

Applicant respectfully requests examination and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked Up Version of Amended Claim 1

1. (Amended) An apparatus for use with a container of liquid that is suspended from an aircraft flying over a ground target area, the container having an outlet through which a gravitational flow of the liquid is dropped from the container, said apparatus comprising:

a diffuser configured to diffuse the gravitational flow of liquid exiting the container outlet horizontally outward beyond the container into the air above the ground target area, whereby the liquid is diffused over a correspondingly wide area.